

### REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 7 have been allowed in this application. The Examiner's Amendment sent with the Notice of Allowance addressed two parts of the specification: the first paragraph, dealing with Cross-Reference to Related Applications; and wording of part of the brief description of the figures. Applicant agrees with the latter, regarding wording of the brief description of the figures. However, for reasons explained below, Applicant respectfully requests that the amendment herein of the first paragraph be considered and entered to replace the Examiner's Amendment of such paragraph.

#### *Further Amendment of Priority Claims*

The undersigned attorney for Applicant discussed the issue of the first paragraph with Examiner Gerrity by telephone on February 7, 2006. The attorney indicated that the Examiner's amendment of the first paragraph could be interpreted to improperly state the chain of priority. No specific agreement was reached; however Examiner Gerrity indicated that the main reason for his amendment was to add "(now abandoned)" to a number of the applications in the chain. He also opined that breaking the first paragraph claim of priority into separate sentences could help clarify issues.

More specifically, the Examiner's amendment of the first paragraph can be read to indicate that the present application, serial number 09/028,187, is a *direct* continuation-in-part of all other applications noted in the paragraph. This would be the case if "this application" were meant to refer to serial number 09/028,187 in each instance of its use.

However, this is not an accurate representation of the chain of priority. In fact, the present application is a continuation-in-part of application serial number 08/884,529. The remaining prior applications in the chain all were pending at the time of filing application serial number 08/884,529, on June 27, 1997, and application serial number 08/884,529 is a continuation-in-part

of those indicated earlier-filed applications<sup>1</sup>. The present amendment is provided to more clearly state this relationship.

As noted, consideration and entry of this amendment is respectfully requested. It is noted that if the amendment is not amended to show clearly this chain of priority, the present Examiner's amendment may be interpreted to present a question about the continuity of the priority chain. Applicant wishes to avoid this situation.

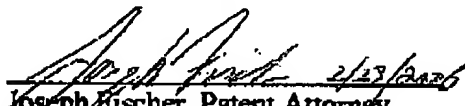
### DRAWINGS

Applicant notes the requirement to correct drawing informalities. Drawing changes with replacement sheets will be sent separately.

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In view of the complexity of priority and the current allowed status, the undersigned offers to participate in a telephonic interview with the Examiner to clarify any issues in order to advance this amendment to entry prior to the April 25, 2006 deadline to pay Issue Fees.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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<sup>1</sup> This is properly the case, and is supported by declarations, despite an apparent inadvertent error by the Patent Office in the filing receipt of application serial number 08/884,529. That filing receipt uses the term "which is a" instead of "and is a". This results in a non-sensical priority chain in which an earlier filed application is a continuation-in-part of a later filed application. Recognition of this error, and correction of the file of serial number 08/884,529, if possible, is requested (filing receipt, with corrections noted, is provided). There is no indication that Mr. Bode, the former attorney, recognized this error.

PTO-103X  
(Rev. 8-95)

## FILING RECEIPT



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Patent and Trademark Office  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND COMMISSIONER  
OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE	GRP ART UNIT	FL FEE REC'D	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	DRWGS	TOT CL	IND CL
08/884,529	06/27/97	3405	\$625.00	M-95-3195-U.	11	20	9

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DEC - 1 1997

Receipt is acknowledged of this nonprovisional Patent Application. It will be considered in its order and you will be notified as to the results of the examination. Be sure to provide the U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER, FILING DATE, NAME OF APPLICANT, and TITLE OF INVENTION when inquiring about this application. Fees transmitted by check or draft are subject to collection. Please verify the accuracy of the data presented on this receipt. If an error is noted on this filing receipt, please write to the Application Processing Division's Customer Correction Branch within 10 days of receipt. Please provide a copy of the filing receipt with the changes noted thereon.

Applicant(s):

CARLOS NETO MENDES, ARARAQUARA, BRAZIL.

## CONTINUING DATA AS CLAIMED BY APPLICANT-

THIS APPLN IS A CIP OF	08/556,657	11/13/95	ABN
AND WHICH IS A CIP OF	08/647,066	05/09/96	PAT 5,655,441
AND WHICH IS A CIP OF	08/681,628	07/29/96	ABN
AND WHICH IS A CIP OF	08/681,627	07/29/96	
AND WHICH IS A CIP OF	08/681,658	07/29/96	ABN
AND WHICH IS A CIP OF	08/681,626	07/29/96	
AND WHICH IS A CIP OF	08/681,625	07/29/96	ABN
AND WHICH IS A CIP OF	08/681,624	07/29/96	ABN
AND WHICH IS A CIP OF	08/681,623	07/29/96	ABN
AND WHICH IS A CIP OF	08/681,622	07/29/96	ABN
AND WHICH IS A CIP OF	08/759,724	12/06/96	
AND WHICH IS A CIP OF	08/759,723	12/06/96	
AND WHICH IS A CIP OF	08/759,722	12/06/96	
AND WHICH IS A CIP OF	08/759,727	12/06/96	
AND WHICH IS A CIP OF	08/763,679	12/11/96	

## FOREIGN/PCT APPLICATIONS-BRAZIL

BRAZIL	PI-9502218-0	06/12/95
BRAZIL	PI-9502244-9	06/19/95
BRAZIL	MI-5501197-7	08/01/95
BRAZIL	MI-5501198-5	08/01/95
BRAZIL	MI-5501199-3	08/01/95
BRAZIL	MU-7501779-2	08/01/95
BRAZIL	MU-7501780-6	08/01/95
BRAZIL	MU-7501781-4	08/01/95
BRAZIL	PI-9503518-4	08/01/95
BRAZIL	MU-7501563-3	08/07/95
BRAZIL	PI-9503109-0	08/07/95
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BRAZIL	MU-7502784-4	12/08/95
BRAZIL	MU-7502785-2	12/08/95
BRAZIL	MU-7502786-0	12/08/95
BRAZIL	MU-7502994-4	12/15/95